



NATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DUPONT CIRCLE
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Acting Chairman Michael Copps
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Robert McDowell

Re: WC Docket No. 09-51

June 5, 2009

Dear FCC Acting Chairman and Commissioners:

On behalf of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC), we are writing today to encourage your support of policies that encourage broadband adoption in the United States.

The NGLCC is the business advocate and direct link between lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) business owners, corporations and government. The NGLCC was founded as the exclusive organization for certification of LGBT owned businesses and works to foster mutually beneficial opportunities for small business and corporate members. The NGLCC represents the interests of more than 1.4 million LGBT businesses and entrepreneurs and is committed to forming a broad based coalition of LGBT owned and friendly businesses, professionals and students of business for the purpose of promoting economic growth and the prosperity of its members.


According to *BizReport*, the online marketing publication, there are 12.1 million LGBT Internet users today, representing 7.9% of all U.S. adults online. The Internet is important to the LGBT community and critical to the success of our businesses. For this reason, we are particularly interested in the FCC's creation of a national broadband strategy, as mandated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The NGLCC urges the FCC to adopt policies that will result in universal and affordable broadband deployment.

Broadband deployment and adoption creates new jobs and economic opportunity, which is welcome given today's economic environment. The Brookings Institution found that for every one percentage point increase in broadband penetration, 293,000 jobs are created. According to Connected Nation, a seven percent increase in broadband could have an annual direct economic impact of \$134 billion. On a smaller scale, broadband creates flexible solutions for more Americans to enter the workforce. Broadband connections enable people to start businesses from their own homes without the large amounts of capital usually associated with starting a business. Furthermore, high-speed Internet allows telecommuting, which is convenient and good for the environment.

As the FCC considers a national broadband plan, the NGLCC hopes that the FCC will implement policies that maximize broadband adoption. In order to guarantee the best user experience, private sector providers must have the authority to manage their own networks. Smart networks ensure the effective transmission of data, without jitter or delay. Furthermore, managed networks safeguard consumers from spam and harmful worms and viruses. Smart networks provide consumers with an enhanced user experience.

NGLCC urges the FCC to adopt a national broadband strategy that encourages greater broadband deployment and adoption. Next-generation technologies are good for entrepreneurs, as well as the American economy. We hope that the FCC will take advantage of this opportunity to bring broadband to the LGBT community, and all Americans.

Sincerely,



Justin G. Nelson
Co-Founder and President



Chance Mitchell
Co-Founder and CEO